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EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
37 C.F.R. § 1.116

PATENT
Case No. 7117-89

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: LAMPERT et al.	)))
Serial No. 09/016,002	) Group Art Unit:) 2172

Title: PARCELIZED GEOGRAPHIC DATA
      MEDIUM WITH INTERNAL SPATIAL
      INDICES AND METHOD AND SYSTEM
      FOR USE AND FORMATION THEREOF
	))
	) Examiner:
	) E. COLBERT

Filed: January 30, 1998	))

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GROUP 3600

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

    This response addresses the final Office Action dated March 29, 2002.

    In the final Office Action, Applicant's pending claims (i.e., Claims 2-10, 13-15, 17, 19, 20, and 23-29) were rejected as obvious over U.S. Pat. No. 4,888,698 ("Driessen"). Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection because the subject matter of Applicant's claims is *not* suggested by this reference.

I.   Summary

    The final Office Action addressed a response mailed by Applicant on November 29, 2001. ¶ 4 of the final Office Action included an interpretation of the Driessen patent that was used as a basis for the rejection of Applicant's claims. The rejection of

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Applicant's claims should be withdrawn because the interpretation of the Driessen patent was incorrect.

The following summarizes the Driessen method:

(1) Driessen refers to a "parcel" as a unit of space in a mass memory having a predetermined capacity, such as one or more successive sectors of a disc memory. (Driessen: column 6, lines 12-5.)

(2) Driessen teaches the formation of main cells which correspond to rectangular geographic areas. (Driessen: column 6, lines 5-9.)

(3) Driessen teaches that if the data content of a main cell will fit into a parcel, a parcel is formed of the data content of the main cell and the main cell is not subdivided any further. (Driessen: column 6, lines 39-41.)

(4) Driessen teaches that if the data content of the main cell will not fit into a parcel, the main cell is further divided into smaller blocks. (Driessen: column 6, lines 41-48.) This process of division is repeated (Driessen: column 6, lines 57-63) until a block has a data content small enough to form a parcel. Driessen refers to a block formed from a main cell which is small enough to form a parcel as a "base cell." (Driessen: column 6, lines 64-66.)

The position taken in the final Office Action is incorrect in that it equates Driessen's "main cells" with "parcels." Driessen explicitly states that a main cell is not divided unless its data content is too large to form a parcel. (See, Driessen: column 6, lines 39-41). Thus, a main cell whose data content is small enough to form into a parcel is not divided. Main cells that get divided (because they are too large) are not formed into parcels. In summary, Driessen does not disclose that any of the areas (either main cells or base cells) whose corresponding data contents are formed into parcels are further subdivided.

Because the rejection of all Applicant's claims is premised on a misinterpretation of the Driessen patent, the rejection should be withdrawn.